22. (Original) A system for exchanging digital assets over a network, comprising:

(a) a first computer coupled to the network, said first computer storing a digital asset which includes both digital content and a first unique identifier associated with a first instantiation of said digital asset; and

(b) a second computer coupled to the network; and

(c) a first software routine executing on said first computer and/or said second computer, said first software routine being adapted to coordinate transfer of said digital asset to said second computer;

wherein a second instantiation of said digital asset is created for said transfer to said second computer, said second instantiation including a second unique identifier.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said first computer and said second computer operate to transfer said digital asset in a peer to peer manner across the Internet.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein after said transfer, a second transfer of said digital asset can occur from either said first computer and/or said second computer, said second transfer further using a third instantiation of said digital asset and a third unique identifier.

25. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein at least said second computer is a portable electronics device, including a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, and/or a telephone.

26. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said digital content includes an MP3 based audio file.

27. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said second unique identifier is based on combining information from any one or more of the following: a first id for said first computer, a second id for said second computer, an asset id for said digital asset, a customer id, a randomly generated number and/or a time of said transfer.

28. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein a catalog of available digital assets is maintained at said first computer.

29. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said first software routine is also configured to execute an authorization routine, said authorization routine being adapted to secure agreement from a user of said second computer to access terms associated with said digital asset.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said first routine is also configured to execute a setup routine, said setup routine being adapted to set up a transaction account with a digital asset management system separate from said first computer and said second computer, said transaction account including an identifier for a user of said second computer, identifiers for any transfers performed by said user, and billing information associated with said transfers.

31. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said first computer coordinates said transfer to said second computer in cooperation with a digital asset management system, such that said digital asset management system provides said second unique identifier.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said first computer provides authorization for said digital asset management system to track all transfers of digital assets from said first computer.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first computer also performs hosting functions, and further receives credits from said digital asset management system for all authorized transfers made of digital assets.

34. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said second computer polls other computers coupled to the network to determine an optimal transfer source for said digital asset.

35. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said digital content includes content for a newspaper, a book, a magazine, and/or a periodical.

36. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said second instantiation of said digital asset is created in accordance with distribution rules in place at the time of said transfer, which distribution rules can be different from distribution rules in place at the time of creation of said first instantiation of said digital asset.

37. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said second computer is integrated within a fixed personal entertainment system, including a gambling machine, a digital jukebox, and/or a passenger seat.

38 – 54 (Withdrawn)

55. (Original) A method of exchanging digital assets over a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a digital asset on a first computer coupled to the network, which digital asset includes both digital content and a first unique identifier associated with a first instantiation of said digital asset; and

(b) coupling said first computer to a second computer over the network; and

(c) creating a second instantiation of said digital asset, including a second unique identifier;

(d) storing said second instantation of said digital asset at said second computer.

56 – 58 (Withdrawn)

59. (New) The method of claim 55, further including a step: storing said second unique identifier as part of said digital asset.

60. (New) The method of claim 55, further including a step transferring said digital asset between said first computer and said second computer in a peer to peer manner across the Internet.

61. (New) The method of claim 55, further including a step: performing a second transfer of said digital asset from either said first computer and/or said second computer, said second transfer further using a third instantiation of said digital asset and a third unique identifier.

62. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein at least said second computer is a portable electronics device, including a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, and/or a telephone.

63. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said digital content includes an audio file.

64. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said second unique identifier is based on combining information from any one or more of the following: a first id for said first computer, a second id for said second computer, an asset id for said digital asset, a customer id, a randomly generated number and/or a time of said transfer.

65. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein a catalog of available digital assets is maintained at said first computer.

66. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first software routine is also configured to execute an authorization routine, said authorization routine being adapted to secure agreement from a user of said second computer to access terms associated with said digital asset.

67. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first routine is also configured to execute a setup routine, said setup routine being adapted to set up a transaction account with a digital asset management system separate from said first computer and said second computer, said transaction account including an identifier for a user of said second computer, identifiers for any transfers performed by said user, and billing information associated with said transfers.

68. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first computer coordinates said transfer to said second computer in cooperation with a digital asset management system, such that said digital asset management system provides said second unique identifier.

69. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein said first computer provides authorization for said digital asset management system to track all transfers of digital assets from said first computer.

70. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein said first computer also performs hosting functions, and further receives credits from said digital asset management system for all authorized transfers made of digital assets.

71. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said second computer polls other computers coupled to the network to determine an optimal transfer source for said digital asset.

72. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said digital content includes content for a newspaper, a book, a magazine, and/or a periodical.

73. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said second instantiation of said digital asset is created in accordance with distribution rules in place at the time of said transfer, which distribution rules can be different from distribution rules in place at the time of creation of said first instantiation of said digital asset.

74. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said second computer is integrated within a fixed personal entertainment system, including a gambling machine, a digital jukebox, and/or a passenger seat.

75. (New) A method of exchanging digital assets over a network, comprising the steps of:

    (a)   providing a first computing system coupled to the network;

    (b)   storing a digital asset in one or more storage systems accessible to said first computing system, which digital asset includes both digital content and a first unique identifier associated with a first instantiation of said digital asset; and

    (c)   providing a second computing system which is coupled to the network and implements a digital asset management system which stores transaction information concerning said digital asset;

    (d)   selectively coupling said first computing system to a third computing system in response to a request made for said digital asset by a routine executing on behalf of said third computing system; and

    (e)   processing said request at said second computing system to generate an authorization for a transfer of said digital content of said digital asset;

    (f)   determining which one or more of said one or more storage systems should be used to transfer said digital content for said digital asset;

    (g)   creating a second instantiation of said digital asset for said request, including a second unique identifier;

    (h)   transferring said second instantiation of said digital asset, including said second unique identifier, to said third computing system from one or more of said one or more storage systems based on said authorization;

    updating said transaction information at said second computing system based on said transfer;

    wherein each transfer of said digital asset is associated with a unique identifier to facilitate tracking across the network.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein said authorization includes a right to host said digital asset at said third computing system.

77. (New) The method of claim 75 further including a step: crediting a rights holder account based on said transfer of said digital asset.

78. (New) The method of claim 75 further including a step: debiting a customer account based on said transfer of said digital asset.

79. (New) The method of claim 75, further including a step: determining whether one or more of said storage systems is storing an unauthorized version of said digital asset.

80. (New) The method of claim 79, further including a step: determining a source of a prior transfer of said unauthorized version of said digital asset.